

MESSAGE TRANSFER METHOD AND APPARATUS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10       The number of nodes that can be identified is increased without redefining switching request and switching status fields in existing K1/K2 bytes. Eight bits are assigned to a node ID field, and source node ID is stored in the node ID field when transmitting over a short path, while a destination node ID is stored in the node ID field when it transmitting over a long path.